134. Certain needs of the Visvakarma community.

Mr. A. Muthu Jyotsier (Member, Nominated) represented that *Silpasastra* was an important science widely recognised as such and that it was necessary to revive the same. He suggested that the ancient text-books dealing with the science should be printed, that schools should be opened at important stations to teach the science and that it should form a portion of the curriculum of studies in schools. Carpentry should be taught as a special subject to the boys of the community. He also prayed that the members of the Visvakarma community might be encouraged by being given preference in the matter of appointments in the Survey, Engineering, and Industrial Departments and as drawing masters in the Education Department. He requested that at least two members of the community might be nominated to the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and that the young men of the community who had passed the Matriculation Examination or held English School Leaving Certificates might be given scholarships to prosecute their studies in foreign countries. The Member also wanted half-fee concession for the Members of the community in the matter of English education.

Dewan's reply.—As regards the publication of the books referred to by you and their introduction as text-books, the existence of such books will be enquired into. One of the books you mentioned is going to be published by the Curator of Sanskrit Manuscripts. Enquiries will be made as to whether there are any more rare manuscripts, and the question of printing and publishing them will be considered by Government. If the publications are good enough to be used as text-books, the question of prescribing them as such will be considered by the Text Book Committee.

You have referred to carpentry as one of the subjects which should be taught to your children. Carpentry alone will not do. In the Quilon Carpentry School iron work is also going to be taught. In the Trivandrum School, building work and drawing are proposed to be taught, and other subjects will come in gradually. Similarly, Industrial schools will also increase gradually in number.

The question of giving encouragement to the members of your community in the public service is a different matter. We have to consider what the qualifications and service of the men referred to by you are.

In regard to the representation of your community on the Assembly and the Legislative Council by nomination, the only answer that I can give you is that the claims of your community will be considered along with those of other communities similarly situated.

As regards your request to depute one or two matriculates of your community for foreign training, I may say that matriculates will not do for the purpose. Neither they nor the Government will be benefited by the arrangement proposed.

As regards your request for fee concession to your community in the matter of English education, the question is engaging the consideration of Government.

135. Disabilities of the Ezhava community.

Mr. S. Kumaravelu Panikkar (Member, Nominated) dwelt upon the grievances suffered by the members of his community as a result of the obstacles that lay in the way of their admission into temples and prayed that this disability might be removed. The restrictions now enforced in regard to walking through public roads adjoining temples and the entry into temples themselves were driving many of the members of is community to accept the Christian faith, as, by becoming converts to that religion, hey were able to enjoy privileges for which they could not aspire before. He said that Government had issued a general order to the effect that the depressed classes should keep up a pollution distance of 66 feet when they approached temples. In the circumstances, the Member prayed that their grievances in that respect might be removed.

Dewan's reply.—In regard to the admission of members of the depressed classes into Sirkar temples, I have already given my reply to two previous members, and I shall have to give the same reply to you also. Government have issued no

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